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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Douglas John Waite, Deputy Chaplain of the Coast Guard, offered the following prayer:

Good morning, loving God of us all. We invite You here with us today as we deliberate about issues affecting Your people everywhere. We especially ask You to be with the former chaplain of the Senate, Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, and his family in their grief and loss of his beloved wife Mary Jane.

We also request You to be with our forces who are in harm's way today. Grant wisdom to the leaders you appointed over them. Take those who have paid the ultimate price for freedom and safety into Your kingdom and comfort their families. Stand beside our terrorized prisoners of war. Bring them home safe and soon. Heal quickly those who have been wounded. Shield innocent civilians everywhere and cause a speedy end to war. Protect us all from terrorism at home and abroad.

Finally, Lord, we beseech You to enable the elected representatives of our democracy to seek Your guidance and direction so they may do Your will. We ask these things in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS.)

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 10, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. MURKOWSKI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. BENNETT. Madam President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate may address any of the following items: The FISA bill, if unanimous consent can be reached; the PROTECT Act conference report; the digital technology bill; the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be a U.S. circuit judge; the BioShield bill; and any other conference reports that may become available. Therefore, Members should expect rollcall votes during today's session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic whip.

Mr. REID. Madam President, if I could, through you, ask the acting majority leader: All we know on this side is what we read in the newspapers and listen to on the news. Are we going to be able to work on the budget before we leave here, either today or tomorrow? Members are concerned some will leave. This is the most important vote

we have, it and the supplemental. We have a pretty good idea what is happening in the supplemental but less of an idea of what is happening on the budget. Does the acting majority leader have any information for this side of the aisle?

Mr. BENNETT. Madam President, I am not in a position to give any definitive answer to the Senator from Nevada. It is my understanding, however, that intense negotiations are going on with the chairman of the Budget Committee and other Senators who have an interest about the conference report. It is my understanding that an agreement has been reached and that a conference report will, in fact, be available to be voted on, if not late tonight, sometime tomorrow. But in the absence of any absolute word about that, I will simply put that in the category of rumors. They may be true rumors, but rumors nonetheless, that I can pass on as my best understanding.

I will, as a courtesy to the Senator from Nevada, and to the Senate, ask the majority leader to come forward with that information as quickly as it has been firmed up. But it is my expectation that there will be resolution of the budget situation before we go out for recess.

Understand, again, that is my personal expectation. That is not an official statement on behalf of the majority leader.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11 a.m., with the first 30 minutes to be equally divided between the Senator from Texas and the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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